

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 32-52 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ashok Mannava on June 26, 2012 and summarized in the attached Examiner Initiated Interview Summary.

Claims 35-39 and 49 have been amended as follows:

35. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory storage medium storing machine-readable instructions to discover that a particular network node has been connected to a computer network, wherein the network includes (a) plural nodes, one of which is the particular node, and (b) a server arrangement including a network portion and a discovery portion, wherein the machine-readable instructions when executed by a processor cause the processor:

to respond to an establishment of a connection of the particular network node to the network, the network portion of the server arrangement receiving an access request from the particular network node, wherein the particular network node has an assigned address assigned by a device in the network;

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in response to receiving the access request, the network portion to authenticate the particular network node;

the network portion to send a discovery request and the assigned address of the particular network node to the discovery portion of the server arrangement after the network portion has successfully authenticated the particular network node;

the discovery portion to store the assigned address of the particular network node and initiating a discovery program that performs a discovery procedure for the particular network node;

the discovery procedure for the particular network node, initiated by the discovery request from the network portion, including polling other nodes in the network to determine a network topology, the polled network topology including at least some of the other nodes to which the particular network node is connected, and to determine the configuration of the particular network node.

36. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory storage medium of claim 35 wherein the discovery portion receives a sequence of discovery requests including assigned addresses of various nodes of the network which have requested access to the network, the discovery portion storing the assigned addresses of the received requests from the various nodes.

37. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory storage medium of claim 36 wherein the discovery portion stores the assigned addresses as a stack that the discovery portion processes in a first-in-first-out order.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) The non-transitory storage medium of claim 35, wherein the particular network node includes a portable computer and a docking station, the docking station responding to the portable computer being initially connected to the docking station by booting the portable computer and performing a logon dialog between the network portion of the server arrangement and the portable computer;

the logon dialog being the access request;

the network portion of the server arrangement responding to the logon dialog from the portable computer by authenticating the portable computer; and

the server arrangement, when connected to the authenticated portable computer, functioning as a domain controller for the portable computer.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 32-37 and 40-52 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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6. The prior art of record does not explicitly disclose or make obvious the claimed invention as a whole when interpreted in light of the Specification with particular emphasis on the arguments presented in the Appeal Brief dated 4/16/2012.
7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Dailey whose telephone number is 571-270-1246. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday; 9:00am - 5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thu Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-6967. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thomas J Dailey/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452